

THE JEWISH HERALD

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DISTRICT GRAND LODGE NO. 7, I. O. B. B. CONVENTION.

Mobile Had the Honor of Entertaining the B'Nai B'Rith Convention of District No. 7.

The beautiful home of the Fidelia Club was placed at the disposal of the Convention, and the ball-room, handsomely decorated, was converted into a hall for the purpose.

The hall was decorated with American flags and streamers, the corners of the hall being shaped into rosettes. The stage was festooned with the National colors. In the rear was an immense Menorah electrically lighted. The incandescent lights were placed on the top of representations of candles, while each of the candleholders had at the upper end a transparent letter lighted from within. These letters formed the word "Welcome," and at the base were also the initials I. O. B. B. in electric lights. The gallery overlooking the hall was also festooned in American flags.

When the curtain was raised, it revealed the officers of the Grand Lodge, Mayor Pat J. Lyons and Mr. Henry Hess, chairman of the General Committee, seated on the stage.

The Convention began its labors on Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, many ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the delegates, being interested auditors.

Mr. Chas. J. Haase of Memphis, Tenn., president of the District, called the Convention to order. Rev. M. Newfield of Birmingham, Ala., delivered a prayer.

Hon. P. J. Lyons, Mayor of Mobile, was introduced, and in behalf of the Mobilians he welcomed the Convention and other visitors officially.

Mr. Leo M. Brown, president of Beth Zur Lodge No. 84, extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the B'nei B'Rith of Mobile. Mrs. Adelaide M. Hirshfield contributed "an original poetic welcome."

Mr. Joseph S. Loeb of New Orleans responded to the welcome addresses.

Without unnecessary delay, the business of the convention was taken up. The Committee on Credentials presented its report, which was followed by the roll call of lodges and delegates.

President Haase prefaced his remarks upon the special comment of

President Kraus in his message to the Convention of the Constitution Grand Lodge concerning District No. 7, in which President Kraus said:

"This district is an empire in itself, has made marked progress in its growth and development. In this the youngest of our American districts, signs of active, vigorous life are everywhere displayed. It is true that the majority of the lodges have a small membership. This is due to lack of available material. The lodges are scattered over an extensive territory, widely separated from each other. They serve as monitors, safeguarding the interests of Judaism in their respective localities. The members of this district tax themselves more per capita for the maintenance of charitable institutions than those of any other American district. With the constant increase in the number of lodges, new centers of activity and new co-operators in our work and cause are being secured. Its membership is 4,061."

President Haase, discussing the concrete expressions of charitable work, said that more than \$16,000 had been contributed to the Orphans' Home at New Orleans, with its manual training school, during the past year, and the Touro Infirmary, with its Home for the Aged and Infirm, had received \$8,000. The National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives at Denver now takes care of 132 patients, and during the past five years had looked after 1,174 patients, whose average stay had been between six and seven months. The total expenditures in that time was about \$450,000, and of this amount \$50,000 was contributed by the Order.

"The Hot Springs Disbursement Committee," said President Haase, "have not wanted for funds, and a detailed report of their work is submitted by Brother Rhine, of whose unselfish and untiring devotion to this duty, too much in praise cannot be said. The action of the Constitution Grand Lodge in nationalizing this work and appropriating funds for its maintenance insures the future progress of the enterprise."

In concluding, President Haase said that he attended the first session of the Grand Lodge in Pensacola seven

years ago, and in the seven years experience he learned that not every thinking Jew did think alike and all must go on carrying the light of Menorah in one hand as they offered the Ark of the Covenant with the other.

Election of officers was the next order of business. Mr. Isaac Schwarz of Selma, Ala., was elected president, by acclamation; Henry J. Dannenbaum of Houston, Texas, first vice-president; Leo Pfeifer of Little Rock, Ark., second vice-president; Nat Strauss of New Orleans, La., secretary; Leon Schwarz of Mobile, Ala., treasurer, and Rabbi E. Frisch of Pine Bluff, Ark., sergeant-at-arms.

Just prior to adjournment, Archibald A. Marx of New Orleans, moved that the customary telegram of love and affection be sent to the widow of Leo N. Levi. It was seconded by delegate Leo Goodman of Memphis and passed unanimously.

A telegram of sympathy was also sent to "Uncle Nat," deploring his inability to have been present, on account of illness and hoping for his speedy recovery.

Temple Shaarai Shomayim was occupied on Sunday evening by an interested audience attracted thither by the entertainment given under the auspices of the Intellectual Culture Committee.

The exercises began at 8 o'clock. Rev. Martin Zellonka of El Paso, Tex., delivered the invocation. Mrs. H. W. Leinkauf sang, "I Will Extol Thee."—Costa.

Mr. C. J. Teller, superintendent of the Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans, was the essayist of the evening, his subject being, "The Americanization of the Jew."

Following an organ interlude played by Dr. F. A. Dunster, Mr. Arthur L. Kramer of Dallas, delivered the oration, on the "American Jewry, Retrospect and Prospect."

Monday's session began at 10:30 o'clock, with Isaac Schwarz in the chair, the invocation being pronounced by Rabbi Sol. L. Kory of Vicksburg, Miss.

The total membership in the eighty Lodges composing the District, was, a year ago, 3975; on January 1, 1909; present membership, 4645.

"The following new Lodges appear on our rolls: Laurel Lodge, Laurel